

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display apparatus, comprising:
 - a pair of substrates; ~~and~~
 - a liquid crystal layer having negative dielectric anisotropy sandwiched by the pair of substrates; and
 - ~~wherein: electrodes are provided on each of the pair of substrates, each pixel being formed between and defined by the boundaries of an electrode on one of the pair of substrates and a corresponding electrode on the other of the pair of substrates;~~
 - a plurality of pixel electrodes each having a peripheral edge disposed in a matrix array on a surface of one of said substrates facing said liquid crystal layer and a counter electrode on a surface of the other of said substrates facing said liquid crystal layer so as to define a plurality of pixels respectively having peripheral edges corresponding to the respective peripheral edges of said pixel electrodes normal to said surfaces of said first and second substrates;
 - wherein:
 - liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer of each pixel are oriented in a direction substantially perpendicular to a said substrate surfaces in the absence of an applied voltage, are oriented in a direction substantially parallel to the said substrate surfaces in the presence of an applied predetermined voltage, and are oriented in a slanting direction with respect to the said substrate surfaces in the presence of an applied voltage less than the said predetermined voltage;
 - wherein:
 - ~~each of at least one of the electrodes of each pixel provided on at least one of the pair of substrates~~ has consists of at least first and second tilted surfaces adjacent to one another and respectively facing directions different from a direction substantially perpendicular to the said substrate surfaces and being adjacent to each other;

wherein:

an insulating film is provided on a liquid crystal molecule side of ~~the said~~ electrodes consisting of at least first and second tilted surfaces ~~provided on the at least one of the pair of substrates to bury the said tilted surfaces of the said electrodes to and define produce a flat surface of the substantially parallel to said substrate surfaces at least one of the pair of~~ substrates; and

wherein:

the slanting orientations of substantially all of the liquid crystal molecules in the portion of said liquid crystal layer located in each said pixel under conditions of applied voltage less than said predetermined voltage are regularly regulated to at least first and second predetermined directions different from a direction substantially perpendicular to a said substrate surfaces facing said liquid crystal layer by due to said the electrodes of each said pixel provided on at least one of the pair of substrates having that consist of at least first and second tilted surfaces facing in directions different from a direction substantially perpendicular to the said substrate surfaces facing said liquid crystal layer.

2. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein another insulating film comprising predetermined protrusions, pits, or a pit-and-protrusion pattern having at least first and second tilted surfaces is provided on a liquid crystal layer side of the at least one of the pair of substrates ~~so that the electrodes provided on the at least one of the pair of substrates are provided on the another insulating film while the first and second tilted surfaces of the insulating film are maintained~~ a substrate side of said electrodes consisting of at least first and second tilted surfaces.

3. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 2, wherein ~~the first and second tilted surfaces of each of the electrodes provided on the at least one on the pair of substrates are provided for a corresponding pixel, and liquid crystal molecules in the corresponding pixel are tilted in directions different from a direction substantially perpendicular to the substrate surface, the said slanting orientations direction of said liquid crystal molecules in each pixel are~~ being separated by a boundary between the said first and second tilted surfaces.
4. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the another insulating film also serves as a vertical alignment film provided by subjecting surfaces of the pair of substrates to vertical alignment treatment.
5. (Previously Presented) A liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the another insulating film also serves as a vertical alignment film provided by subjecting surfaces of the pair of substrates to vertical alignment treatment.
6. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 2, wherein:
each of the electrodes ~~provided on the at least one of the pair of~~
substrates consisting of at least first and second tilted surfaces further has
consists of at least third and fourth tilted surfaces adjacent to each other
and facing directions different from the directions of the in which said
first and second tilted surfaces face and different from the direction
substantially perpendicular to the substrate surfaces; and

a boundary between the first and second tilted surfaces and a
boundary between the third and fourth tilted surfaces are oriented to
directions different from each other in a plane parallel to the substrate
surfaces.

7. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 4,
wherein:

~~each of the electrodes provided on the at least one of the pair of~~
substrates consisting of at least first and second tilted surfaces further has
consists of at least third and fourth tilted surfaces adjacent to each other
and facing directions different from the directions of the in which said
first and second tilted surfaces face and different from the direction
substantially perpendicular to the substrate surfaces; and
a boundary between the first and second tilted surfaces and a
boundary between the third and fourth tilted surfaces are oriented to
directions different from each other in a plane parallel to the substrate
surfaces.

8. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
~~first and second tilted surfaces of each of the electrodes provided on the at least one on the~~
~~pair of substrates are provided for a corresponding pixel, and liquid crystal molecules in the~~
~~corresponding pixel are tilted in directions different from a direction substantially~~
~~perpendicular to the substrate surface, the~~ slanting orientations direction of said liquid crystal
molecules in each pixel are ~~being separated by a boundary between the~~ said first and second
tilted surfaces.

9. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein another insulating film also serves as a vertical alignment film provided by
subjecting surfaces of the pair of substrates to vertical alignment treatment.
10. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein:
each of the electrodes ~~provided on the at least one of the pair of~~
substrates consisting of at least first and second tilted surfaces further has
consists of at least third and fourth tilted surfaces adjacent to each other
and facing directions different from the directions of the in which said
first and second tilted surfaces face and different from the direction
substantially perpendicular to the substrate surfaces; and
a boundary between the first and second tilted surfaces and a
boundary between the third and fourth tilted surfaces are oriented to
directions different from each other in a plane parallel to the substrate
surfaces.
11. (Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim
1, wherein the said first and second tilted electrode surfaces of each of the electrodes
~~provided on the at least one of the pair of substrates~~ are disposed adjacent to each
other so as to form a protrusion, an apex portion of the said protrusion facing faces
the liquid crystal layer, and a boundary between the said first and second tilted
surfaces ~~is exposed projects from the said insulating film to into said the liquid~~
crystal layer.

12. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 11, wherein another insulating film ~~also~~ serves as a vertical alignment film provided by subjecting surfaces of the pair of substrates to vertical alignment treatment.
13. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 11, wherein:
each of the electrodes ~~provided on the at least one of the pair of~~
~~substrates~~ consisting of at least first and second tilted surfaces further has consists of at least third and fourth tilted surfaces adjacent to each other and facing directions different from the directions ~~of the~~ in which said first and second tilted surfaces face and different from the direction substantially perpendicular to the substrate surfaces; and
a boundary between the first and second tilted surfaces and a boundary between the third and fourth tilted surfaces are oriented to directions different from each other in a plane parallel to the substrate surfaces.
14. (Currently Amended) The liquid crystal display apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the said first and second tilted electrode surfaces ~~of each of the~~ electrodes ~~provided on the at least one of the pair of substrates~~ are disposed adjacent to each other so as to form a protrusion, an apex portion of the said protrusion ~~facing~~ faces the liquid crystal layer, and a boundary between the said first and second tilted surfaces ~~is exposed~~ projects from the said insulating film ~~to into said~~ the liquid crystal layer.
15. Canceled, without prejudice.
16. Canceled, without prejudice.